

Ardsley Historical Society Meeting
Ardsley Library
April 22, 2025
Minutes

Attendees: M. Arone, G. Calvi, J. Damascus, P. Marcus, R. Pellegrino, G. Rappaport and trustee liaison Michael Wiskind.

The meeting convened at 7:34pm

Old Business

There was one typo in the minutes (Joe Urbanowicz) that needs to be corrected. President Peter Marcus asked for a **motion** to approve the corrected minutes from the March 18th meeting. Rob made the motion. George seconds it. All in favor.

Review Middle School walking tour (from March 19th). Peter went over the route and many of the landmarks that were discussed. Rob and Peter both commented on how well it went and showed pictures. About 20 students attended the walk and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Their advisors were pleased.

Review one action items (129): WWII Monument will be discussed later on this agenda.

New Business

1. Announcements (Peter)—Thanks to Gary for the e-mail blast regarding the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's historic ride. Announced the US Semiquincentennial (July 4, 2026). The Greater Hudson Heritage Network is recognizing the Westchester County Historical Society with an award for excellence for "Experiencing the Neutral Ground of The American Revolution: the McDonald interviews".
2. Membership (Peter)—111 dues paying members. 5 are new members. We had 145 last year so we are still down members by about 30. Total dues of \$4,826 has been paid. 17 people have contributed \$935 in additional donations. Jim has been doing some recruiting of some local business and restaurants on his own for the society. Pete will follow up.
3. Sale of Duplicate Yearbooks (Matt)—Peter and Matt have been working together on this endeavor. 4 different people have purchased so far and some have asked for more than one yearbook so Matt thinks we have sold 8; total received is \$240. Reimbursement receipts for the shipping will be submitted to Peter; total expenses is \$67.
4. Odell House Current Status (Peter)—A collection of items for a mini-museum is being displayed at the Greenburgh Public Library and contain items such as old toaster irons and an old checkerboard. On April 5th, Peter and Rob went to a quilt presentation headed up by Susan Seal at the library. They would like to display the quilt in a more permanent place. New windows and siding are being installed on the house now. Jim mentioned that exposed Tyvek loses its efficacy when it has been exposed to the elements for too long.

5. RW250 Upcoming Events (Peter)—Peter says it is getting into prime time for these events. Ken Burns is developing a series on the American Revolution airing on PBS in November. There is an audio tour (Plunder, Battles and Spies) talking about all the Revolutionary sites in Westchester County and Peter will send out the link. Peter also announced “Path to Liberty: Emergence of a Nation” at The Fraunces Tavern Museum.
6. Middle School History Club (Peter)—nothing new to report
7. WWII Memorial (Gary, Peter and Rob)— We are making some significant progress and working on better pricing. Currently working on documentation. Gary mentioned that eight of our 14 fallen WWII soldiers are buried overseas and two went missing in action.
8. Military Tribute Banners—Sharon Colabello spoke to Peter. Says this program has grown so much that the village has no more room for additional banners despite more requests. Asks for the society’s opinion on if we should double up on the poles. Even moving the banners to Farm Road would give more options. The directors were not in favor of moving the banners to Farm Road (only 2 poles exist). Sharon should talk with DPW to explore other options. Sharon also asked about putting “garden banners” around the planned WWII memorial next to the AUFSD admin building. Board members were concerned about space and also about potential vandalism. Sharon also has a binder in the Ardsley Public Library with the history behind each banner and she would like the society to consider digitizing the information. Perhaps this is a boy/girl scout project.
9. Programs—Working to try and get Tim LaMorte to do a program. Rob and Peter have reached out. Other possibilities are a program on Ardsley Little League and the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette’s Return to US.
10. May Elections—Two-year term for officers. Gary says he would be willing to be a co-president if we get someone to work with him, Bernie will be vice-president, Matt will be treasurer and Peter will be treasurer. Peter will circulate a list of president’s responsibilities which can be divided up among our directors. We can discuss at the May meeting. Trustees have a three-year term. Jim, Rob, Peter and Pierre all agreed to another term.
11. Discussion: i) Facebook Page Before and After (Matt)—Matt has now posted six different “Then and Now” items on our Facebook page. Rob has been very helpful providing Matt the information he needs. Rob and Matt are pleased with all the public feedback and social media content. Matt will continue to contribute these posts every 10-14 days until it gets to be too much.

Peter asks for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Rob makes the motion and George seconds it. Meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.

Next meeting date: May 20, 2025 at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Matt Arone